

# **“Language”**

CTGE 5534

Beginning Reading and Writing  
in Inclusive Classrooms

Instructor – Andrew Fletcher

# What Is Language?

- Language can be defined as a socially shared code or conventional system for representing concepts through the use of arbitrary symbols and rule-governed combination of those symbols (Owens, 2001).
- Language is a complex and dynamic system of conventional symbols that is used in various modes for thought and communication (ASHA, 1983). (A-S-L-H-A)

# What Is Language?

## (Continued...) (ASHA, 1983)

- Language evolves within specific historical, social, and cultural contexts.
- Language, as rule-governed behavior, is described by at least five parameters:
  - phonologic
  - morphologic
  - syntactic
  - semantic
  - pragmatic

# What Is Language?

## (Continued...) (ASHA, 1983)

- Language learning and use are determined by the intervention of biological, cognitive, psychosocial, and environmental factors.
- Effective use of language for communication requires a broad understanding of human interaction including such associated factors as nonverbal cues, motivation, and sociocultural roles.

# What Else About Language Should You Know?

## Acquisition and Development (Psycholinguistics)

- Authors/Researchers: Bandura, Bloom, Brown, Bruner, Cambourne, Chomsky, Halliday, Skinner, Vygotsky, and others...
- Nature (Nativist, Biological) versus Nurture (Cognitive, Environmental, Psychosocial)
- Milestones [See the chapter by Lenneberg (1985). Additional information will be presented next week.]

# What Else About Language Should You Know? (Continued)

## Specialized Vocabulary (Sociolinguistics)

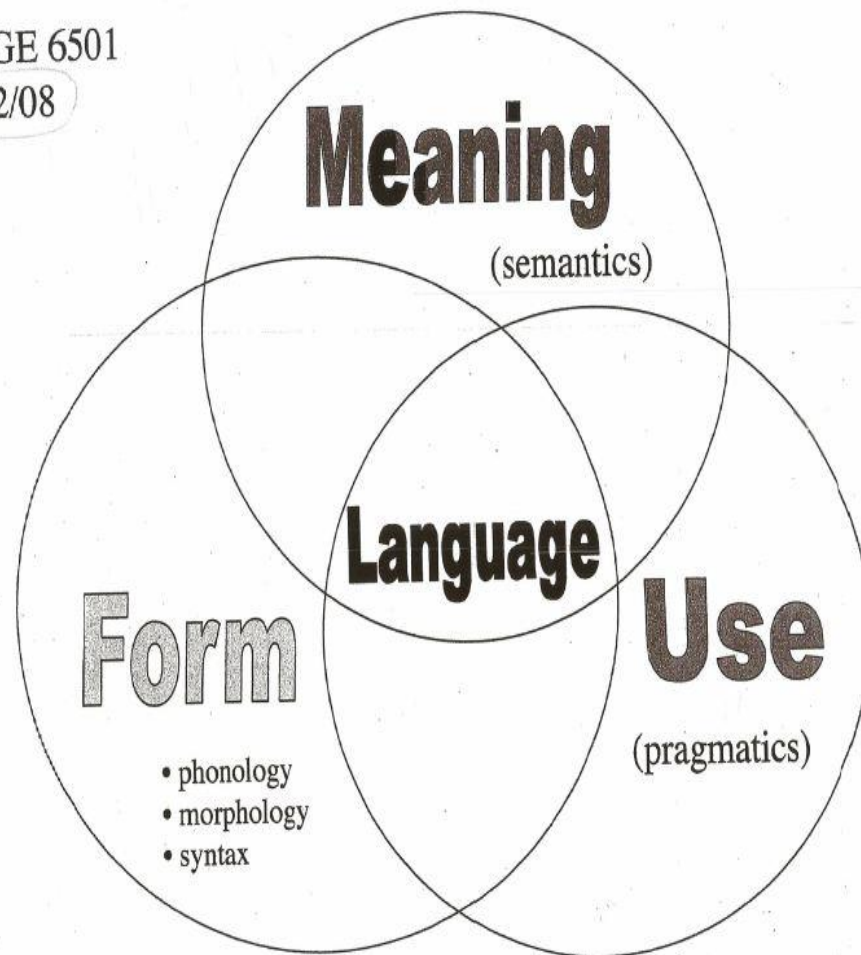
- Receptive/Expressive
- Accent/Dialect
- Register
- Codeswitching
- First Language Acquisition (L1)/Second Language Acquisition (L2)
- English Language Learner (ELL)/Limited English Proficient (LEP)/Language Minority (ESL/Bilingual)
- Native/Heritage Language (\_\_\_\_\_ -Dominant)
- Academic Language/“Standard American English”/“Book Language”
- Vernacular English/Home Language/“Nonstandard English”
- Correctionist versus Contrastive Perspectives
- Resource versus Deficiency/Deficit

# Language → Linguistics

- Form
  - Phonology
  - Morphology
  - Syntax
- Meaning
  - Semantics
- Use
  - Pragmatics
- Spoken versus Written
- Orthography

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# References

- Owens, 2001
- ASHA, 1983